



# Chester Society

OF

## Natural Science, Literature, & Art

(FOUNDED BY CHARLES KINGSLEY 1871).



### THIRTY-SIXTH

# ANNUAL REPORT

INCLUDING

## STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS, &c.

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## CURATOR AND LIBRARIAN'S REPORT.

IN submitting this Report, your Curator has pleasure in stating that, for the most part, the additions to the Society's Museum during the past year are of a most important character.

An unusually fine specimen of the Black Rhinoceros (*Atelodus bicornis*), shot by HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF WESTMINSTER in East Africa, has been presented by His Grace to the Society's Museum. The colour of this animal is not black as its name implies, but a dirty brown, and the name is only given to it to distinguish it from its enormous relative, the Burchells or White Rhinoceros, an animal which has, I believe, never yet been seen alive in captivity, and as it is now nearly extinct, most probably never will. The living species of Rhinoceros are native only to Africa and Southern Asia, although, as shown by geological evidence, animals of the kind were once very widely distributed; and some of them inhabited Great Britain. The group is known to have originated in North America. The common Indian species ranges from Bengal to Cochin China, and is distinguished by the possession of a single horn upon the nose, and armour-like folds in the thick skin.

The additions to the birds includes a specimen of the Hoopoe (*Upupa epops*, Linn.), procured at Saltney in August 1906, and presented by MR. T. H. HIGNETT. Two specimens are recorded in Dr. W. H. Dobie's List of Birds of Cheshire and North Wales (Proceedings IV., p. 310). The range of this species outside the British Isles is generally distributed throughout Southern Europe, and nesting in the Mediterranean countries, and in Central Europe, as far north as Denmark and Southern Sweden. The winter home of the Hoopoe is in North-eastern Africa; the Central Asian individuals doubtless winter in North-western India.

Another addition worthy of special mention is that of the Hobby Hawk (*Falco subbuteo*, Linn.), procured at Tarvin, near Chester, in August 1906, and presented by MR. ARTHUR NEWSTEAD. This is a migratory species, and is found most usually in the southern, western, and midland counties of Great Britain, from May to September.

A new Life-history Group of the Puffin (*Fratercula arctica*, Linn.) has been prepared and mounted by your Curator from material and specimens collected on Puffin Island, where an isolated colony of these birds nest annually.

A specimen of the Large-tailed Blue Butterfly (*Lampides bœticus*, Linn.) has been presented to the Society's collections of *Lepidoptera* by its captor, MR. J. W. MACFIE. This specimen was taken at Heswall in 1886 or 1887.